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COB - 0762

9 February 1960

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DFD
SUBJECT : Development Branch Activity Report, 1 - 5 February 1960

1. OXCART:

a. A meeting has been scheduled with Perkin-Elmer personnel for 12 February in Washington at which time P & E will submit a new proposal to Project Headquarters for six cameras and a set of spares.

b. Eastman-Kodak submitted a new cost proposal of [] for six production cameras and one flyable test bed camera and spares.

c. On 4 February [] of Minneapolis-Honeywell indicated that M-H will review a technical and cost proposal for the autopilot and inertial guidance systems with Mr. C. L. Johnson on or about 10 February. Afterwards, M-H will submit the proposals to Project Headquarters for consideration. [] was given a pep talk on the necessity of reducing costs and reminded that unless the M-H cost proposal is within the "ball-park", Project Headquarters would be obliged to solicit bids from []

d. On 1 February Pratt and Whitney submitted an alternate proposal for the development of exhaust ionizing equipment for the J-58 engine. The cost price of this proposal is [] for two prototypes of components suitable for flight testing by June 1961 and a system developed for operational aircraft by 1 January 1962. The earlier proposal on this system quoted a price of [] with a hardware feasibility demonstrated by June 1961 and three prototype sets available by 30 June 1961. This subject will be reviewed with P & W at a meeting scheduled for 8 February.

e. On 1 February [] of Convair was informed that Project Headquarters terminated Convair's feasibility study efforts effective immediately and that Convair contracting officers be advised accordingly. [] was advised that the decision to terminate Convair's study will be amplified when a Project Headquarters representative next visits Fort Worth.

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g. The OXCART Activity Program Supplement #1 was signed by the Deputy DCI and now awaits DCI approval. A covering letter to the Activity Program was prepared to summarize briefly for the DCI the approval action requested.

h. [] will be visiting Pratt & Whitney, 8-12 February, for orientation purposes. Henceforth, [] will be monitoring the OXCART engine program at Project Headquarters.

i. On 4 February Gen. Flickinger, [] of Firewal visited Lockheed to discuss pilot environment system matters and to take a look at the mock-up of the A-12 cockpit. [] of Project Headquarters also visited Lockheed for this purpose.

2. CORONA:

Flight 1052/9006 was launched on 4 February at the scheduled time. As yet we have not had a complete report as to cause of failure. Preliminary reports indicated that the 1st stage Thor booster burned twenty seconds short and velocities suffered accordingly. There may in addition have been difficulties with the 2nd stage Agena.

The camera operated satisfactorily on the pad just prior to launch. The flight failed prior to the scheduled camera operation at injection, and to our knowledge no evidence of camera operation at injection was received.

Flight 1054/9007 with camera payload was shipped to Vandenberg on 5 February and is scheduled for 18 February. This instrument failed in [] test, after 85% operation, due to film welding on the supply spool. Somehow a piece of foreign matter was inserted, probably during vibration, between the film rolls. All agreed that this failure was independent of camera operation and the instrument was accepted as flight ready.

3. ARGON:

Further slippages in lens deliveries occurred threatening the flight schedule. A meeting will be held at Fairchild on 11 February at which time the possibilities of corrective action will be reviewed.

4. CHALICE:

Negative report.

5. []

Negative report.

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